

Gatschet (A. S.)

# ETHNOGRAPHIC NOTES.

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## ETHNOGRAPHIC NOTE 3:

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DR. JULIUS PLATZMANN, well known to scientific readers by his accurate reprints of ancient Central and South American grammars and dictionaries, has written a book of small volume in which he gives his reasons for reprinting such relics of the past. The title is: "Wesshalb ich Neudrucke der alten amerikanischen Grammatiker veranlasst habe." Leipzig, B. G. Teubner, 1893. 12mo., pp. 136. In this publication are treated problems of phonetics, morphology of language, of affinities of words existing in words of the most distant countries, of ethnogenesis, phytogenesis, anthropogenesis. Although many of his readers may disagree from him on etymological topics, we are always ready to hear what a scientist of world-wide travel and of much literary experience has to state about the work that he has made the purpose of his life.

One of his latest and very meritorious republications is the "Dictionnaire Caraïbe-Français composé par le R. P. (Révérend Père) Raymond Breton. Edition Fac-simile." Leipzig, B. G. Teubner, 1892. 12mo., pp. 480. The original was printed at Auxerre (France) by Gilles Bouquet in 1665, and by its numerous remarks to many of the vocables is of great utility to the ethnologist and naturalist as well as to the linguist. It is printed in two columns, the Indian in Roman, the French in italic type.

THE NEW "GLOBUS."—The geographic and ethnographic weekly periodical *Globus*, published by Vieweg of Braunschweig, appears this year in a novel shape, having substituted the Roman to the German or "Gothic" type, but appearing as it did before in quarto, the editor, Dr. Richard Andree, remaining in charge. With the first of January, 1894, it enters upon its sixty-fifth half-yearly volume. It has been consolidated with Cotta's "*Ausland*," a periodical which was pursuing the same purposes in furthering the science of nature and of man, and had been before the public for sixty-six years. The editorial staff is composed of literary and scientific men of note, and the artists are furnishing the best of work in illustrating. Articles on America appear frequently, as may be seen by the following list: Andree, a Brazilian ax in anchor-shape; Nielsen, Mexican Cave-Dwellers; Dr. Philipp, Eruption of the Calbuco; Foerstemann, Central American Calendar System; Dr. Seler, the Quimbaya; Chilean Stone Age; Nansen's Polar Expedition.

HEWITT ON POLYSYNTHESIS.—The subject of polysynthesis observed in the languages of North and South America has called forth the inquiries and divergent opinions of many scientists. Some confounded it with incorporation, others thought it was one of the various ways of incorporation. Many students thought it was a feature distinguishing American languages from all others, while others who knew better denied this. To render this



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important point of linguistics more clear and to create a sober basis for a fruitful discussion of the matter, J. N. B. Hewitt, a Tuskarora Indian by birth and a member of the Bureau of Ethnology, has taken up the question again and published his views in the "American Anthropologist," October number of 1893, pp. 381-407. At first he attacks the position of Peter S. Duponceau, whose definition of polysynthesis is too wide and general, and based one-sidedly on the study of the imperfect Algonquin material accessible to him. Dr. Daniel G. Brinton, who wrote a special treatise, entitled: "Polysynthesis and Incorporation as Characteristics of American Languages," (\*) is then criticised and his definitions revoked in doubt as defective and incomplete, pp. 392-400. Follow the opinions of William D. Whitney, Dr. Lieber and J. Owen Dorsey upon the question.

Another paper of the same author deals with the "Era of the formation of the historic league of the Iroquois." The commencement of that era had been placed by Horatio Hale about the year 1460, but Hewitt for reasons stated by him assigns it to a period about A. D., 1570.

OMAHA INDIAN MUSIC.—In June, 1893, the Peabody Museum, Cambridge, had published No. 5 of its octavo series of papers, which contains "*A Study of Omaha Indian Music*," by Alice C. Fletcher, assistant in American Ethnology, Peabody Museum, and holder of the Shaw Fellowship, aided by Francis La Flesche," (pp. 152.) This interesting publication is quite outside of the run of ordinary books, and Miss Fletcher has fitted herself for writing on this and other Indian subjects by a residence of ten years among the Omaha and other tribes of the Dakotan stock. She has also studied the songs of the Pawnees and Nez-Percés. This last mentioned tribe she visited on an official trip to Idaho, on which she had to apportion lands in severalty to the Nez-Percés families. Many or most of the Omaha songs are sung during the religious or ceremonial dances of the people; others were sung to her when she was prostrated by sickness in her tent. The baritone and mezzo-soprano are more common than the higher or lower class of voices. Open air singing tends to strain the voice and there is little attempt to render *piano* or *forte* passages. Of great assistance to her was Fr. La Flesche, an Omaha by birth and clerk in the Bureau of Indian Affairs at the capital, for he is thoroughly familiar with the music and melodies of his people. There are eighty-eight Indian songs, with the Omaha text below, arranged for the piano and four having the notes only. This arrangement is due to Professor John Comfort Fillmore, A. M., who also added a long "report on the structural peculiarities of the music." How correctly Mr. Fillmore has reproduced the true accents of Omaha music the present reviewer is unable to say, for he does not belong to the rare birds who combine musical science with a scientific knowledge of Indian music, being acquainted only with the *newsical* accents of our family and pet animal, the cat.

A. F. BANDELIER'S FINAL REPORT, Part II, to the Archæological Institute of America (American Series, No. IV) of his "Investigations among the Indians of the Southwestern United States, carried on mainly in the years from 1880 to 1885," (Cambridge, Mass., 1892), forms a beautiful, illustrated

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\*Published in Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, 1885. This pamphlet evinces considerable research on the part of the author.

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volume of 591 octavo pages. In some respects this is a recapitulation of the author's researches previously published, but in others it is perfectly original and throughout it is fascinating by the novelty of the scenes that come to view, remarkable by the familiarity of the author with all parts of the countries described, by the historic and geologic tableaux presented, and by the wealth of erudition necessary to complete such a work as this. The narrative leads us from the pueblos of the Taos, Tehuas, Taños, to the mines of the upper Pecos River, then along the upper Rio Grande to Jemez, the Tiguas and the Piros into Northern, Eastern and Southern Arizona, Tucson, the Sierras Huachuca and Cananéa. From there we are led across the boundary of the United States into the valleys of the Sonora River and Oposura to the upper Yaqui and to Northwestern Chihuahua, through mounts and cliffs, woods and deserts, sandy plains and yucca fields, ruins and inhabited pueblos. The most fearless American explorer of our times has earned for himself by this book a lasting monument, not as an antiquarian only, but as a historian as well.

DR. J. WALTER FEWKES, a New England archaeologist and member of the Hemenway Southwestern Archaeological expedition, is now busy in describing and commenting the Pueblos, the ruins, the sights and customs observed by him in the southwest in the past years. The following articles were produced by him in the "American Anthropologist," 1893:

1. "A CENTRAL AMERICAN CEREMONY, which suggests the snake dance of the Tusayan (or Hopi, Moki) villagers." The festival discovered to be analogous to the snake dance is the *atamalqualitzli*, or festival of the unsalted, (or unspiced) water pancakes, as described by Father Sahagun and celebrated every eighth year. The Nahuatl text, Dr. Seler's German and Dr. Fewkes' English translation are subjoined. To explain similarities like these occurring between many tribes along the Pacific coast, we shall do well to remember that the Shoshonian division, to which Tusayan belongs, pertains to the same linguistic stock as Nahuatl.

2. AWATOBI; an archaeological verification of a Tusayan legend. The present inhabitants of the Moki Pueblos remember certain events that took place in their country and ended with the destruction of the Pueblo Awátobi, or "Place of the Bow People," in 1700. These events are attested in a document of 1713 and Dr. Fewkes' investigation of the ruins tends to confirm in a wonderful manner what the legend states about the occurrence.

3. Dr. Fewkes has also composed an instructive article "On certain personages who appear in a Tusayan ceremony," the name of which is Powámuh. It is celebrated in January, and men appear in it disguised as monsters (*natáshka*). The dress, disguise and paraphernalia of the men are fully described and made plain by a number of illustrations, and comparisons with similar ceremonies are adduced from Sahagun and other Mexican sources. (*American Anthropologist* 1894, pp. 32-52.) It has several points in common with the *ochpanitzli* of the Nahuas, and with the *ocna* of the Mayas.

EXPLORATIONS IN SOUTH AMERICA.—Dr. Herman ten Kate has returned last year from his Oceanic and South American explorations to Scheveningen in Holland, and is now digesting his field notes for preparing reports. One of his reports will appear in the "Revista del Museo Argentino" at LaPlata, Argentinian Republic. Another was sent to the chief editor of the Ameri-



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can Anthropologist, Dr. Frank Baker, and will appear in the next number of that periodical. His explorations and discoveries in Indonesia are to be printed as a serial in "Tydschrift v. het Aardryksk Genootschap" in the year 1894, profusely illustrated. The editor of the "Internationales Archiv für Ethnographie," Dr. J. D. E. Schmeltz, discusses the archæological explorations recently made in Northwestern Argentina, as follows: "The Museum of La Plata sent out an expedition to the northwestern provinces of the republic. Besides geographical and geological explorations, its object was the study and collecting of Calchaqui antiquities. During the nearly four months of field work, the museum expedition under the leadership of the director, Dr. Francisco P. Moreno, has collected very important material and numerous archæological objects: pottery, of various sizes and decoration; implements of stone and bone, copper ornaments; fetiches, remains of textile fabrics, human bones, etc. Many petrographs were copied and several ruins surveyed. Dr. H. ten Kate, in former years a member of the Hemenway Archæological expedition, under Mr. Cushing, was more particularly in charge of the archæological section of the museum's expedition. His former experience enabled him to find many parallels between the Shivi or Zuñi culture and the now extinct Calchaqui civilization. The field of exploration was situated in the mountainous regions of the provinces of Catamarca, Tucuman and Salta, especially in the valley of Santa Maria. Calchaqui archæology is very little known as yet. Recent publications on the subject are those in the *Revista* and *Anales* of the La Plata Museum, and in the *American Anthropologist*, 1891, by Dr. Moreno, G. Lange and Lafone Quevedo.

HUNGARIAN ETHNOGRAPHY.—Like all other cultured nations, Hungary, or the eastern part of the Austrian empire, also has its ethnologists, who with great industry and intellectual power are searching the ethnic peculiarities of the nations inhabiting the vast realm. The editors of an interesting magazine published for this purpose in Budapest are Prof. Anton Herrmann and Ludwig Katona. The periodical is polyglottic, but confines itself more and more to the German language; its title is: "Ethnologische Mittheilungen aus Ungarn, zugleich Anzeiger der Gesellschaft für die Völkerkunde Ungarns." From the original quarto size it has been reduced to the more handy octavo in 1891, four fascicles having been issued since then. None of the eastern nations of Austria, Russia or Turkey are excluded from its columns and at times ethnographic news from Asia and Africa may be inserted also. Some of the noteworthy recent articles are the following: Albanese People of Slavonia; Right and Wrong; Among Woguls and Ostjaks; Cosmogony of the Woguls; Magyar Popular Ballads; Spanish Colonies in Hungary; Punch and Judy in Turkey; Children's Games in Transylvania; Italian Songs from Fiume; On Hungarian Gypsies; Diluvial Man in Hungary; The Saxons of Transylvania; A Bosnian Guslar Song, "King Mathias and Peter Gereb."

LITERATURE ON BUDDHISM is quite rich nowadays in publications of all sorts and tendencies, and students of Buddhism are quite surprised how near its founder, Gautama, approached the principles which were, six centuries later, embodied in the Christian religion. Ranking among the most noteworthy of recent books on that Asiatic form of self-abnegation and asceticism is Prof. Dr. Adolf Bastian's "*Der Buddhismus als religions-*

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*philosophisches System*," Berlin, 1893, which is an inquiry into its essence and chiefly into its origin. It shows that this most remarkable of all the oriental religions is based more especially on speculation and research than Zoroastrianism and Confucianism, and that in later periods of its evolution was profoundly merged in mysticism. The purpose of Bastian's publication is to prove also that the metaphysical systems of India originated independently of occidental philosophies, but that nevertheless they offer most fruitful and abundant points of comparison with the systems developed around the Mediterranean sea. Whatsoever Buddhism may have achieved in earlier epochs for the improvement of the human race, it can not be contested that the spirit of quietism and mysticism prevailing in it now is antagonistic to the progressive tendencies of our western world.

"TWO INSCRIPTIONS OF LEMNOS."—The mystery of the origin and affinities of the Etruscan language is not yet brought to a satisfactory solution, though all the European and many of the other Mediterranean languages have been compared. The tongue in which the two short inscriptions are composed, which were found in 1885 on the island of Lemnos, is generally called by the vague term *pelasgic*; and shortly after their publication Dr. Carl Pauli declared that language to be a dialect of Etruscan. Results like these are exceedingly questionable, for we do not know the significance of any word of both languages with any degree of certainty. G. Kleinschmidt, counselor in Insterburg, eastern parts of Prussia, attempts to connect the Lemnian language with the Lettic and Lithuanian, spoken near his home, in a pamphlet just published at Insterburg,\* and the probability of his results is not a bit greater or smaller than those of the linguists who connect Etruscan with Celtic, Roman, Greek or German. Kleinschmidt also believes Lemnian to be akin to Etruscan. Sure enough, the inscriptions are not Greek.

A GERMAN DOCTOR JUBILEE.—The fiftieth anniversary of a professor's doctorate has always been a festive affair for German universities. Nowadays when a professor enjoys much popularity, his numerous disciples will compose short and long articles referring to the scientific branches which have been the object of his teachings; they are printed in book form for his fiftieth doctorate and then presented to him and to the public. Some of these noble memorials attain a large size; the one before us, dedicated to Prof. Rudolf von Roth, Sanscritist and Orientalist, holds 223 pages closely printed, and embodies no less than forty-four contributions by men ranking high in science, as Thos. Aufrecht, B. Delbrück, Karl Geldner, Julius Jolly, Chas. R. Lanman, Thos. Nöldeke, John Schmidt, E. Sievers, W. D. Whitney.

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\*Zwei lemnische Inschriften. Uebersetzt und erklärt von G. Kleinschmidt, Insterburg Press of Wilhelmi, 1893, 8 vo., pp. 19. Separately printed from: Zeitschrift des Insterburger Alterthums-Vereins, No. III.

